



Shaykh Ṣāliḥ al-Suḥaymī on the Impermissibility of Muslims Celebrating Valentine's Day¹

Translated by Abū al-Ḥasan Mālik Ādam al-Akhḍar

Questioner: “Indeed tomorrow corresponds with the fourteenth of February which is recognized as Valentine's Day in the West, and some of our young men and women have been tempted by this holiday. So do you have a word of advice concerning this?”

Shaykh Ṣāliḥ al-Suḥaymī (حفظه الله): “This was the topic of last Friday's *khutbah* (sermon), and perhaps someone from the students of knowledge recorded it, and I do believe that it was recorded in Masjid Amīr Ṣultān. I elaborated on this in detail. In brief, I mentioned that this Valentine's Day contains seven objects of caution.

First: Its origin goes back to the Romans; it was originally called Cupid's (Roman god of love) Day; so recognizing it is recognition of idolatry because it is imitation of the idolaters.

Second: It is blind following of the Jews and Christians, and the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ informed us of this, ‘You will follow the ways of those who came before you...’ it was said, ‘The Jews and Christians?’ He said, ‘And what other nation [could I mean] besides those?’² and in another wording, ‘The Persians and the Romans.’³

Third: It is imitation of the disbelievers in general. The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ stated, ‘Whoever imitates a people, he is from them.’⁴

¹ See <http://www.ajurry.com/vb/showthread.php?t=25549>

² Collected in the *Ṣaḥīḥ* of al-Bukhārī (no. 3195 and 6897) and Muslim in his *Ṣaḥīḥ* (no. 4800) on the authority of Abū Saʿīd al-Khudrī ؓ

³ This refers to the narration collected by al-Bukhārī in his *Ṣaḥīḥ* (no. 6896) and narrated by Abū Hurayrah ؓ that the Prophet ﷺ said: “The Hour will not be established until my *Ummah* imitates the generations that preceded it handspan by handspan.” It was said: “O Messenger of Allah, like the Persians and Romans?” He said: “And what other nation [could I mean] besides those?”

⁴ This refers to the ḥadīth collected by Abū Dāwūd in his *Sunan* (no. 3494) on the authority of ‘Abd Allah ibn ‘Umar ؓ. It was authenticated by al-Albānī in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmi’* (no. 6149)

Fourth: It is an innovation that has been newly introduced by the people, and whoever innovates in this affair of ours that which is not from it, it is rejected.⁵

Fifth: It is an abomination, and everything that takes place in its observance is an abomination from the meeting up of young men and women, the correspondence that takes place between them, the sending of heart-shaped Valentine's and what is similar to this of nonsense. All of this is imitation of the West, and we have been prohibited from imitating [the disbelieving people].

Sixth: Even those who are sensible among them (i.e. the disbelievers) have prohibited celebrating this holiday, until—I believe I heard that the Vatican, the distorted Christian Church, is stern in their prohibition of this matter.

Last: It is based upon a great myth—concerning what is called *love* and what it leads to from corruption. So love, in their view, is merely fornication and what leads to it. Thus, it is upon us to be wary of imitating these disbelieving people. I believe this answer is adequate, and as I have previously mentioned, I have elaborated on this in the *khutbah* (Friday sermon). So we will suffice with this, and I commend you [to Allah's protection] until tomorrow's lesson. May the prayers and peace be upon the our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his family and companions.”



⁵ Here the Shaykh (حفظه الله) is alluding to the ḥadīth collected by al-Bukhārī in his *Ṣaḥīḥ* (no. 2498) on the authority of ‘Aishah, may Allāh ﷻ be pleased with her, who said that the Prophet ﷺ stated: “Whoever innovates in this affair of ours that which is not from it, it is rejected.”